

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a spindle motor for supporting a rotor by a pair of ball bearings, said ball bearing being open ball bearings both sides of which are opened, said method comprising:

a bearing washing process of cleaning said open ball bearings;

a grease filling process of filling grease in said open ball bearings cleaned in said bearing washing process; and

a bearing mounting process of mounting said open ball bearings filled with the grease in said grease filling process on said spindle motor;

these processes being wherein the bearing washing process, the grease filling process and the bearing mounting process are sequentially performed upon in an assembly process of said spindle motor under a clean environment.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) The method of claim 5, the bearing washing process comprising:

setting steel balls between outer rings and inner rings of the ball bearings; and

washing the ball bearings through ultrasonic cleaning.

10. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein an extending part is formed on an outer ring or an inner ring of each of the pair of ball bearings,

the bearing mounting process comprising abutting the extending parts of the ball bearings with each other.

11. (New) The method of claim 5, the bearing mounting process comprising mounting the pair of open ball bearings in a shaft rotatable spindle motor in which outer rings of the ball bearings rotate together with a rotor of the spindle motor.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, the bearing mounting process further comprising attaching a shield member to a shaft of the spindle motor.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, the bearing mounting process further comprising providing a labyrinth structure at an edge of the shield member.

14. (New) The method of claim 5, the bearing mounting process comprising mounting the ball bearings in a shaft fixed spindle motor in which outer rings of the ball bearings rotate together with a rotor of the spindle motor.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, the bearing mounting process further comprising attaching a shield member to the rotor.